

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

**Enabling the County to Utilize Modern, Secure and User-Friendly Web Platforms**

On May 8, 2007 the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a recommendation by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to adopt IBM's WebSphere as a standard platform to develop all Los Angeles County (County) public-facing websites. At that time, the CIO reported that utilizing WebSphere Countywide would better integrate and present online services and information in a manner that promoted seamless government by utilizing a "One-Stop-Shop" approach for County services and information that transcended department and organization boundaries.

WebSphere was introduced by IBM in 2001 and included development tools and website templates and other essential site management tools including document management that presented "significant product innovation" according to research conducted by Gartner in 2007.

Today, nearly a decade after the County's adoption of a specific web platform, web platforms and content management systems including the widely-used open source platforms such as Drupal, WordPress and Joomla have developed rapidly and continue to evolve to meet current needs. Government websites including the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Commerce, the National Telecommunications & Information Administration and Department of Energy were built

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**MOTION**

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on open source platforms. Open source platforms introduced many useful tools such as social media and mobile integration, modern configurations with large background videos and images, and other design features such as infinite scrolling and single-page layout.

It is imperative that the County continuously explore new web technologies and platforms inclusive of, but not limited to, WebSphere to enable the County to publish high-quality and user-friendly content, protect sensitive data, ensure accessibility for people with various disabilities and limitations, and provide effective analytics to understand the needs and the interests of constituents and business enterprises throughout the County.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

1. Direct the Chief Information Officer to sunset the software standard approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on May 8, 2007 that requires the use of IBM WebSphere for developing and deploying all County public-facing (Internet) department portals and websites; and
2. Direct the Chief Information Officer to enable and encourage County departments to constantly explore new, modern, and secure technologies in the development and deployment of portals and websites.

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(MA/DJ)